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SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS SUPPORTS ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today threw its support behind proposed state legislation that would facilitate online voting. At the urging of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, the Board voted to support SB 397, legislation introduced by Sen. Leland Yee, (D-San Francisco) authorizing counties to develop electronic voter registration systems.

Under the bill, eligible voters would be able to electronically submit an affidavit of voter registration on an official county web site, provided the county in which the individual resides has opted to comply with specified provisions. The bill does not amend or alter existing criteria for voter eligibility. Voters would still be required to have a valid California driver's license or state identification card and reside in the county in order to electronically register and vote online.

"This nonpartisan legislation is intended to promote two outcomes: the registration and hopefully, the participation in government of eligible voters," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said, adding: "It is estimated that more than one million people in Los Angeles County are eligible to vote but are not registered to do so, and having an online process would be an important means of encouraging these citizens to vote."

He continued: "Online voting is an environmentally responsible process; it would save the County significant amounts of money by reducing the processing of paper-based voter registration forms. But most importantly, it has the potential to invigorate participation in our democracy."

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